

Abstract

A tailgate step has at least one step held in a working position between tailgate level and ground level by one or more supports. Each support is attached at its upper end to a hinge. Each hinge is attached to or integral with an end of a support channel embedded in the upper surface of a lowered tailgate. Each support member channel is normal to and communicates with a step channel embedded at or near the bottom edge of the tailgate. The step and supports are sized and configured to pivot on the hinges and be stored within the corresponding channels, so that the upper surface of the tailgate is flat when the tailgate step is stored. The channels may be formed into or affixed to the tailgate by methods that prevent the entry of contaminants into the interior of the tailgate.